

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are in the case and are presented for consideration.

Applicant has amended the claims to specify the type of agglomeration/granulation method which is being claimed. The mixing and tumbling agglomeration/granulation method differs substantially from the pressure compression extrusion product shown in Col. 3 lines 18-27 of Spittle. As shown in the publications previously submitted, there are different types of agglomeration/granulation and each of these methods uses different types of equipment. The claims of the present invention teach a mixing and tumbling agglomeration/granulation that creates a homogenous blend of paper product and fortifiers. In the present invention, the mixer imparts agitation forces on the contents of the mixer causing a tumbling, turbulent movement resulting in densification of the product. Spittle does not teach the method claimed in the present invention.

Consideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Amendment of March 13, 2002.



1. An agglomeration/granulation method for creating a fortified mulch comprising;
adding paper fibers to a pin mixer;
adding nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium fortifiers and a binding agent before
or at said mixture; *At mixing and tumbling, said paper fibers, said
fortifiers and said binding agent in said mixer;*
drying contents of said mixer.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the pin mixer is replaced with a pan pelletizer.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the pin mixture is replaced with a paddle mixer.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the pin mixer is replaced with a drum granulator.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said pin mixer has a double helix pin
arrangement.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein said paper fibers are comprised of a by-product of
a paper making process.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein said paper fibers are replaced with sewage sludge.
8. An agglomerated/granulated mulch product *Made by a mixing and tumbling operation*
that is comprised of nitrogen,
phosphorous and potassium fortifiers and paper fibers.

add claim 9.

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